

NEWS BULLETIN



EDITORIAL

As a part of our continuing effort to disseminate important legal information, we are pleased to publish the eighth issue of the quarterly 'Legal Counsel News Bulletin' with some important updates.

DO YOU KNOW

- As per article 87(1) of the Constitution of Bangladesh, it is the responsibility of the government to place before the Parliament an Annual Financial Statement with the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government for each financial year, popularly known as the national budget. The statement is placed as the Finance Bill and once it is passed in the Parliament, the same is called the Finance Act. Upon achieving independence in the year 1971, the first budget of Bangladesh was presented by Mr. Tajuddin Ahmad in 1972 for an amount of Taka 786 Crore. The latest budget presented by the incumbent Finance Minister, Mr. AHM Mustaf Kamal is the 50th national budget and is valued at Taka 6,03,681 Crore. In 50 years, the volume of the budget has increased by 768 times.
- Bangladesh has received its second recommendation from the United Nations for graduating from a Least Developed Country (LDC) to a developing country.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Over the past year, the GDP per capita of Bangladesh has grown by 9%, rising to \$2,227. Meanwhile, Pakistan and India's per capita income is \$1,543 and \$1,947 respectively. Eventually, Bangladesh is now 45% richer than Pakistan whereas in 1971, Pakistan (West Pakistan) was 70% richer than us (East Pakistan).

RISE OF DIGITALIZATION

'Digital Bangladesh' has been one of the most desired and long cherished dreams, being a crucial electoral pledge of the incumbent Government of Bangladesh. To realize its 'Vision 2021' and with the aim of emphasizing digital technology by maximizing its use, the Government has implemented numerous projects relating to digital technology in the recent past. In general, however, the working process in Bangladesh were heavily manual and was primarily reliant on human interventions. Nonetheless, after lockdown measures were imposed by the government due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 and with the second wave hit on March 2021, all the economic activities of the country came to an abrupt halt twice. Following that and having no other alternatives, most offices declared that its employees shall be working from home (WFH). These offices resorted to continuing its operations through the aid of digital resources from home and accessibility of internet in commercial and residential areas have further aided the same.

Digitalization has not only flourished with regard to remote working for entities only. Even judicial proceedings have also been conducted through virtual courts. In terms of education, distance learning methods have been adopted by various educational institutions, which were mostly private, with the view to facilitating the continuity of the process of learning and education. Launching and use of telehealth services have also been witnessed and additional tools have further been developed to raise awareness and promote the use of telehealth. E-commerce has also flourished, thereby improving peoples' way and standard of living. Various online platforms such as Chaldal, Foodpanda, Pathao, Daraz, etc. have supported the buying goods for daily use as well as sophisticated goods, electronic appliances, etc. Making payments have further been easy through the contactless, trouble-free use of popular mobile financial services applications, such as Bkash, Nagad etc. However, such massive transformations did come along with various challenges, such as poor bandwidth, lack of sufficient laws regarding rapidly changing and ever growing IT based businesses, lack of guidelines for online teachings, lack of sufficient data infrastructures, skilled labour for telemedicine, etc. Moreover, unlike the white collar job holders who have had the privilege to use technology and work from home, factory/blue-collar workers had to be physically present at their workplaces.

It is, nevertheless, noteworthy to mention that Bangladesh, having embarked upon the journey of digitalization, have formulated improved and feasible working practices. It further gave a new dimension to the way of living, education, medical services, etc. for its people as well as facilitated for e-commerce to develop further. It is aspired that in the coming future, the country will come out stronger, with more resources, laws, policies, etc., to overcome its hindrances, accomplish its long-nurtured goals and visions of digitalization and will create examples for other countries in the world.

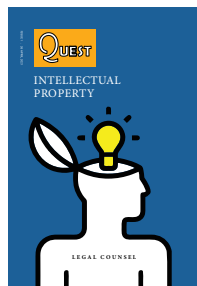
ON A SERIOUS NOTE:



An elderly patient needed a heart transplant and discussed his options with his doctor. The doctor said, “We have 3 possible donors; the 1st is a young, healthy athlete who died in an automobile accident, the 2nd is a middle-aged businessman who never drank or smoked and who died flying his private jet. The 3rd is an attorney who died after practicing law for 30 years. Which do you want?” “I’ll take the lawyer’s heart,” said the patient. After a successful transplant, the doctor asked the patient why he had chosen the donor he did. “It was easy,” said the patient, “I wanted a heart that hadn’t been used.”

QUEST PUBLICATION SERIES

Since its inception, Legal Counsel believed in empowering people. Knowledge is power and hence proper empowerment can only take place through acquiring relevant knowledge. As a part of Legal Counsel’s pro-bono initiatives and continuing effort to disseminate relevant knowledge, Legal Counsel has been the pioneer in doing many innovative things. As a part of the same, Legal Counsel has introduced a new series of publication, called, ‘Quest Publication Series’. We aspire that this series of publication shall provide valuable insight to the readers and enrich their knowledge regarding different aspects of law. We hope that the ‘Quest’ series will gain its true momentum by your valuable feedback and continuing support and we will be able to come up with more publications on different topics.



Legal Counsel has published its first booklet from the Quest series on Intellectual Property, which primarily addressed different matters concerning intellectual property rights, their protections, enforcements, valuation and so on. This booklet shall enhance the knowledge of the reader regarding the salient aspects of intellectual property. The importance of intellectual properties has increased over the years for ensuring that one’s own ideas and creations are fully protected. Besides, it is equally pivotal to work in a manner which safeguards the Intellectual Property Rights of others. Like other developing countries, the IP sector in Bangladesh is also prospering. Although laws relating to trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, etc. are in place, however, they all have their own limitations. Such limitations need to be carefully addressed and necessary reforms need to be brought to accommodate and fill in the loopholes of the existing IP regime.

Please read the e-booklet at: <https://legalcounselbd.com/quest/>

NEW IMPORTANT LEGISLATIONS (APRIL 2021-JUNE 2021)

- ✔ The Finance Act, 2021.

LEGAL COUNSEL NEWS

✔ Webinar on IP day



IP-BOOKLET was launched by Legal Counsel from its QUEST publication series followed by a discussion on IPR on the World International Property (IP) Day 2021. The webinar was organized by Legal Counsel and the participants were H.E. Ms. Winnie Estrup Peterson, Ambassador of Denmark, Mr. Syed Almas Kabir, President, BASIS, Mr. Yuji Ando, Country Representative, JETRO, Ms. Nadia Samdani, President, Samdani Art Foundation, Mr. Tahrin Aman, President, NCCI, Mr. Syed Gousul Alam Shaon, Managing Partner & Country Head, Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd., Ms. Nabila J. Khan, Head of Contents, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. and Ms. Manju N. Rai, Asst. General Counsel- APEC, Western Union. The event was included in the event list of the UN’s agency for IP, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

To watch : <https://www.facebook.com/legalcounselbd/videos/145725224106834>

✔ Meal for under privileged people

Legal Counsel has arranged for meal on 3rd May 2021 for 500+ underprivileged children and elderly people at Chattogram in association with Bidyanondo Foundation as a part of its Child Policy.



✔ Webinar on Access to Justice in Bangladesh and Nigeria

Barrister Miti Sanjana spoke about “Access to Justice in Bangladesh And Nigeria: session and role for Law students” at a webinar on 29th June 2021 organised by Adekunle Ajasin University (AAU), Faculty of Law. AAU is declared as the ‘Best State University in Nigeria’ in 2019 and 2020 consecutively by the Webometric Ranking of World Universities.



PRO-BONO WORKS: PUBLICATIONS AND TV SHOWS (APRIL 2021-JUNE 2021)

PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

- ✓ A vivid interview of Barrister Omar H. Khan, Managing Partner of Legal Counsel as published in the most circulated English daily in Bangladesh about his corporate law practice | The Daily Star | April 06, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30601>
- ✓ Marriage registration | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | Feminist Factor | April 16, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30602>
- ✓ Divorce law for Garo Christians | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | April 14, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30603>
- ✓ Prevention of Contagious Disease & Citizen Participation | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Jonokontho | April 24, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30604>
- ✓ Evaluation of Intellectual Property | Barrister Omar. H. Khan, Managing Partner Of Legal Counsel | Dhaka Tribune | April 26, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30605>
- ✓ Acute need to have organizational Intellectual Property (IP) strategies | Barrister Omar H. Khan, Managing Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Star | April 27, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30606>
- ✓ Heba | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | April 30, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30607>
- ✓ Rights over property of an adopted child | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | May 05, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30608>
- ✓ Fraud while in a relationship | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | May 12, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30609>
- ✓ Muslim marriage Registration | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | May 19, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30610>
- ✓ False accusation & Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | June 02, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30611>
- ✓ Inheritance Law | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | June 05, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30612>
- ✓ Media trial and laws relating to character assassination | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | BBC News | June 19, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30613>
- ✓ Cheating laws | Barrister Miti Sanjan, Partner of Legal Counsel | The Daily Prothom Alo | June 23, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/30614>



OUR TV SHOWS AND INTERVIEWS

- ▶ Sexual harassment at workplace | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | April 03, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30601>
- ▶ Pandemic & Contagious Disease | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | Independent TV | April 10, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30602>
- ▶ Pandemic & Contagious Disease | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | April 10, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30603>
- ▶ Polygamy | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | DBC News | April 12, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30604>
- ▶ Altercation involving doctor, police & magistrate | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | BBC Bangla | April 20, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30606>
- ▶ Concept of Contractual Marriage | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | April 24, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30607>
- ▶ Industry, Trade & Business and Economy | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | Channel i | April 28, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30608>
- ▶ Violence against women | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | May 01, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30609>
- ▶ Conflict of power between men and women | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | E-South Asia | May 07, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30610>
- ▶ Domestic violence against women during lockdown | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | May 08, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30611>
- ▶ Domestic violence against women amid corona virus disease | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | DBC News | May 10, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30612>
- ▶ Official Secrets Act 1923 | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | Ekattor TV | May 19, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30613>
- ▶ Muslim Marriage Registration | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | May 22, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30614>
- ▶ Cyber law | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | Channel i | May 29, 2021 <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30615>
- ▶ Official Secrets Act, 1923 | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | May 29, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30616>
- ▶ Official Secrets Act, 1923 | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla24 | June 05, 2021 <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30617>
- ▶ Harassment while using ride through app | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | DBC News | June 07, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30618>
- ▶ Media Law | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | Newsroom workshop | June 10, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30619>
- ▶ Financial Inclusion in the year 2021-2022 | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | channel i | June 12, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30620>
- ▶ Harassment in public place | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla 24 | June 12, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30621>
- ▶ Online harassment of women | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla 24 | June 19, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30622>
- ▶ Social violence | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | ATN News | June 21, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30623>
- ▶ Consumer Protection Rights | Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel | NewsBangla 24 | June 26, 2021. <https://legalcounselbd.com/v30624>